



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
ABIDJAN BUREAU

MAB 6033
1 April 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THRU: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--March 1987

I. GENERAL

A new wage scale, approved by headquarters, was implemented in March. It grants most FBN's a 5.6% increase and is retroactive to October 12, 1986. A few FBN's received slightly larger increases to keep their pay in line with State Department grades.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Developments in Chad again dominated the bureau's coverage efforts in March. Forces loyal to Chadian President Habre captured the key Libyan stronghold of Ouadi Doum on 22 March and then took control of Faya-Largeau, the last major Libyan base in the southern half of the contested northern sector. The Libyan-controlled clandestine Chadian station Radio Bardai termed the defeat at Faya-Largeau an "orderly tactical withdrawal." London Bureau is now filing Libyan media pickups from Radio Bardai since Abidjan's reception is frequently unmonitorable. Abidjan in turn is filing radio behavior and negative fyi's when appropriate to keep the BBC informed on our reception conditions.

2. Other noteworthy events during the month include an unsuccessful coup attempt against Sierra Leone President Joseph Momoh and major religious disturbances in Nigeria which resulted in numerous deaths and many arrests. President Babangida banned religious organizations at institutions of higher learning and numerous restrictions were put on public preaching and worship services.

B. Coverage

Ghana's external services resumed broadcasting on March 6 after an absence of several years. Preliminary checks indicate it is carrying mostly the same material as the domestic service with a bit more international news, primarily outside the West Africa area. The bureau continues to cover this station on a temporary basis pending a more systematic study of its potential.

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C. Technical

The bureau's engineering team completed installation of memory upgrade kits on our computers, raising their capacity to 640K. The bureau also took delivery of a new xerox machine. The old machine will be sold at auction by GSO. Also received were additional office and residential security devices for installation.

D. Lateral Services

On 9 March the bureau began taping the 8 p.m. Ivorian television news at the Ambassador's request. They are forwarded weekly for his perusal.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Chief departed on 15 March for Bureau Chief's Conference.

2. Monitors [redacted] received PSI's during the month.

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B. Building and Grounds

Residential security enhancements continued with the installation of more burglar alarm systems and the long-awaited safehaven security door for the senior editor's residence.

IV. VISITS

Ambassador Kux, as part of his program of follow-up visits to embassy installations, visited the bureau on 4 March.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

[redacted] wife of the Deputy Chief, served as unofficial video-photographer and chronicler for an embassy outing to the village of Agban. Ambassador Kux and other members of the group were treated to lavish tribal dancing and ceremonies as well a feast of somewhat exotic local cuisine.

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[redacted]
Acting Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau
Deputy Chief, London Bureau